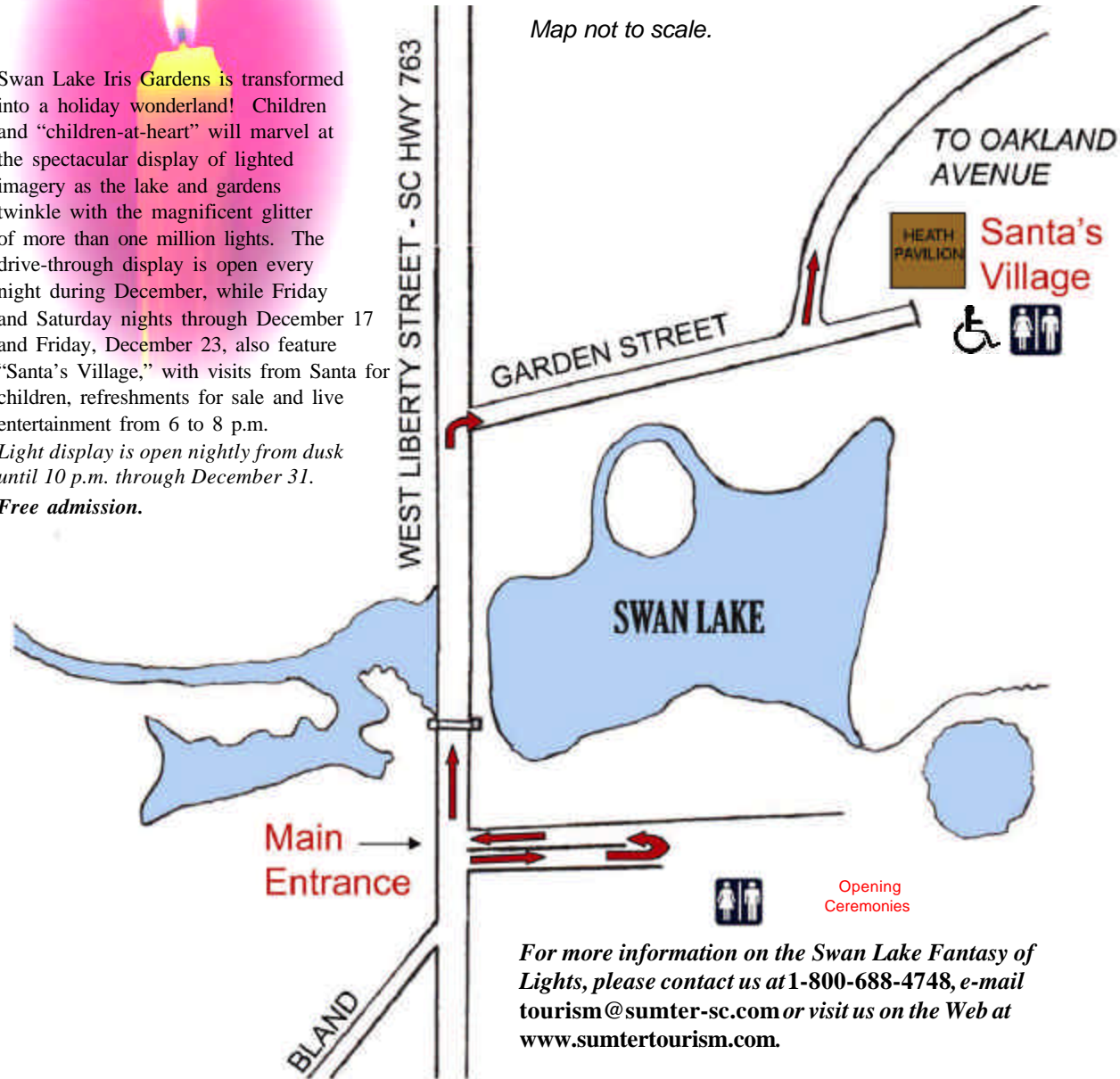


## Drive in to a holiday dream world...

Swan Lake Iris Gardens is transformed into a holiday wonderland! Children and "children-at-heart" will marvel at the spectacular display of lighted imagery as the lake and gardens twinkle with the magnificent glitter of more than one million lights. The drive-through display is open every night during December, while Friday and Saturday nights through December 17 and Friday, December 23, also feature "Santa's Village," with visits from Santa for children, refreshments for sale and live entertainment from 6 to 8 p.m.

*Light display is open nightly from dusk until 10 p.m. through December 31.*

**Free admission.**



*For more information on the Swan Lake Fantasy of Lights, please contact us at 1-800-688-4748, e-mail [tourism@sumter-sc.com](mailto:tourism@sumter-sc.com) or visit us on the Web at [www.sumtertourism.com](http://www.sumtertourism.com).*

## Joel Roberts Poinsett

1779-1851



The Sumter Poinsettia Festival is named in honor of Joel Roberts Poinsett, the first US ambassador to Mexico. An avid botanist, Poinsett imported the plant that has become a symbol of the holiday season. His burial site is at the historic Church of the Holy Cross in Stateburg, South Carolina.

Stage performances...home tours...drive-through nativity...the Swan Lake Fantasy of Lights...join the celebration as Sumter welcomes the season with the sights, sounds and tastes of the holidays!

A short drive from Interstates 95, 77 and 20, and within easy driving distance of South Carolina's major cities, experience the beauty and wonder of the holidays at the **Sumter Poinsettia Festival**.



For more information, please call:

**1-800-688-4748**

**Sumter Convention & Visitors Bureau**

PO Box 1449

Sumter, SC 29151

(803) 436-2640

[tourism@sumter-sc.com](mailto:tourism@sumter-sc.com)

Please visit the South Carolina Welcome Centers for traveler assistance.



**South Carolina**  
*Savory Faces Beautiful Places*

Sumter, South Carolina

# Sumter Poinsettia Festival

November 26 -  
December 10, 2005



# Sumter Poinsettia Festival 2005

## Schedule of Events

### November 26

#### Swan Lake Fantasy of Lights Opening Ceremony

Holiday cheer arrives in Sumter with the opening of the annual Swan Lake Fantasy of Lights. For the entire month, the gardens come alive with a display of twinkling holiday imagery created by more than one million lights. The Pilot Club's floating Christmas tree is an annual favorite, along with Santa, angels and characters of song and story. On Fridays and Saturdays through December 17 and on Friday, December 23, "Santa's Village" at the Heath Pavilion features visits from Santa, refreshments and live entertainment from 6 to 8 p.m. Opening ceremonies 5 p.m. Drive-through light display open nightly from dusk until 10 p.m. **FREE.**

### November 29

#### "The Nutcracker"

Patriot Hall hosts the beloved story of Clara and the Prince, performed by the Columbia City Ballet. 7 p.m. Tickets and pricing information: (803) 436-2260. Second performance on November 30.

### December 1

#### Circle of Lights

The Circle of Lights, part of the Tuomey Foundation's annual Festival of Trees celebration, is sponsored by the families and friends of those who have benefited from Tuomey Healthcare System's Hospice Services. The 20-foot Circle of Lights Tree is in their honor. 6 p.m. The Festival of Trees will continue through January 5, 2006. For more information, please call (803) 778-9014.

### December 2

#### Sumter County Christmas Tree Lighting

Join the citizens of Sumter on the courthouse lawn as Sumter County's spectacular community Christmas tree blazes into life. Live entertainment. 4:30 p.m., immediately followed by "A Walk with St. Nick." **FREE.**

### A Walk with St. Nick

The Sumter County Recreation Department hosts the annual stroll with Saint Nicholas, followed by refreshments and storytelling. For children of all ages! 6 p.m. **FREE.** For more information, please call (803) 436-2248.

### The Singing Christmas Tree

First Baptist Church presents some of the community's most talented singers in this dramatic re-telling of the Christmas story. Performances through December 5. For more information, please call (803) 773-3732.

### Christmas Arts & Crafts Show

December 2-4 marks the eagerly anticipated Christmas Arts & Crafts Show at the Sumter County Exhibition Center. Exquisite handcrafted decorations and gifts. **FREE.** For more information: (803) 436-2270.

### December 3

#### "The Urban Nutcracker"

Vibrations Dance Company, a contemporary African-American dance troupe, presents "Sista Girl and the Soldier: The Urban Nutcracker," a lively new take on the cherished holiday tale. Patriot Hall. 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$10. For more information call (803) 436-2260.

### Breakfast with Santa

Share "the most important meal of the day" with Santa Claus at this favorite annual event! All ages welcome. 10 a.m. Admission: \$5 adults, \$2 children under 12. For more information: (803) 436-2248.

### Holiday House Tour

Sumter's most beautiful homes, dressed in their holiday finery, throw open their doors for this annual event sponsored by Sumter's Garden Clubs. 2-8 p.m., with a tea at the Alice Boyle Garden Center from 3-5 p.m. \$15. For more information: (803) 775-3085.

### December 4

#### Jaycees & Evening Optimist Club Christmas Parade

Holiday cheer parades down Sumter's Main Street in an array of song, dance, floats and more! 2 p.m. **FREE.**

### December 6

#### Joel Poinsett: The Nullification Issue

Botanist, diplomat, physician--learn about the life and work of the fascinating American statesman who domesticated the Christmas flower and shared it with the world. Presentation by Christopher Cocozello, social studies teacher and vice-principal at St. Francis Xavier High School. Mr. Cocozello holds a degree in education from Troy University. Hosted by USC Sumter. Arts & Letters Lecture Hall, 7:00 p.m. **FREE.** For more information please call (803) 938-3762 or e-mail bobf@uscsu.com.

### December 8

#### Sumter Community Concert Band

Patriot Hall presents the Sumter Community Concert Band's holiday concert, featuring a mix of popular and traditional Christmas favorites. 7:30 p.m. **FREE.** For more information, call (803) 499-9210.

### "The Velveteen Rabbit"

Love makes all things real in this wonderful play carefully adapted for the stage from Margery Williams' beloved tale of a toy rabbit and the little boy who loves him. A gift for the entire family! Directed by Eric Bultman. December 8-11 and 15-18. Admission \$12 adults; season tickets available. (803) 775-2150.

### December 9

#### Sumter Passion Play

Alice Drive Baptist Church presents a dramatization of events in the life of Christ, interwoven with modern man's search for meaning in this powerful presenta-

tion. Second performance December 10. (803) 905-5200.

### The Living Christmas Story

A trip back in time as Trinity United Methodist Church recreates 1st-century Bethlehem on the night Jesus Christ was born. Drive-through. Nightly through December 11. **FREE.** For more information: (803) 773-9393.

### December 10

#### Carolina Backcountry Christmas

Chestnuts roasting on an open fire...the sound of music in the air... spiced cider and loads of delicious goodies! Enjoy the sights and sounds of an old-fashioned Christmas celebration at the Sumter County Museum. 2-5 p.m. **FREE.** For more information: (803) 775-0908.

### December 11

#### Sumter Civic Chorale

The Sumter Civic Chorale brings in the holiday season with its annual program of Christmas favorites. **FREE.** 4 p.m.

For more information on Poinsettia Festival events, please call the Sumter Convention & Visitors Bureau at **1-800-688-4748. All dates and events subject to change or cancellation.**

*If your organization hosts a holiday-themed event during the first full week of December and would like to be part of the 2006 Poinsettia Festival, please contact the Swan Lake Visitors Center by October 31, 2006 at (803) 436-2640 or tourism@sumter-sc.com.*